

CLAIMS

1. A method of monitoring at least one network device communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:

accessing the at least one network device by a first computer to obtain device status information of the at least one network device, including information obtained from sensors of the at least one network device;

storing the obtained device status information;

periodically processing the stored status information to generate a usage report for the at least one network device;

transmitting the usage report from the first computer to a second computer; and

receiving the usage report by the second computer.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the usage report to the second computer at a predetermined time or upon the occurrence of a predetermined event.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one network device includes a copier, and the usage report includes a number of copies made by the copier over a predetermined period.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

translating the usage report into HTML or Excel format.

5. A system for monitoring at least one network device communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:

means for accessing the at least one network device by a first computer to obtain device status information of the at least one network device, including information obtained from sensors of the at least one network device;

means for storing the obtained device status information;

means for periodically processing the stored status information to generate a usage report for the at least one network device;

means for transmitting the usage report from the first computer to a second computer;

and

means for receiving the usage report by the second computer.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the means for transmitting comprises:

means for transmitting the usage report to the second computer at a predetermined time or upon the occurrence of a predetermined event.

7. The system of claim 5, wherein the means for periodically processing comprises:

means for generating a usage report for a copier, the usage report including a number of copies made by the copier over a predetermined period.

8. The system of claim 5, further comprising:

means for translating the usage report into HTML or Excel format.

9. A computer program product having a computer usable medium for monitoring at least one network device communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:

instructions for accessing the at least one network device by a first computer to obtain device status information of the at least one network device, including information obtained from sensors of the at least one network device;

instructions for storing the obtained device status information;

instructions for periodically processing the stored status information to generate a usage report for the at least one network device;

instructions for transmitting the usage report from the first computer to a second computer; and

instructions for receiving the usage report by the second computer.

10. The computer program product of claim 9, wherein the instructions for transmitting comprise:

instructions for transmitting the usage report to the second computer at a predetermined time or upon the occurrence of a predetermined event.

11. The computer program product of claim 9, wherein the at least one network device includes a copier, and the usage report includes a number of copies made by the copier over a predetermined period.

12. The computer program product of claim 9, further comprising:

instructions for translating the usage report into HTML or Excel format.